

# HAWAI'I ARMY WEEKLY

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Serving the U.S. Army Community in Hawaii ★ [www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com](http://www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com)

## INSIDE POW/MIA

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 10 a.m., Sept. 16, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

See News Briefs, A-6



## Never forget

9/11 ceremonies are held on island and downrange.

B-1



## Team players

Soldiers devote personal time to coaching several youth teams.

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## 9/11 run

8th TSC and 25th ID host runs in honor of Sept. 11 sacrifices.

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## This issue

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## Frost relinquishes command of 'Warrior Bde.'

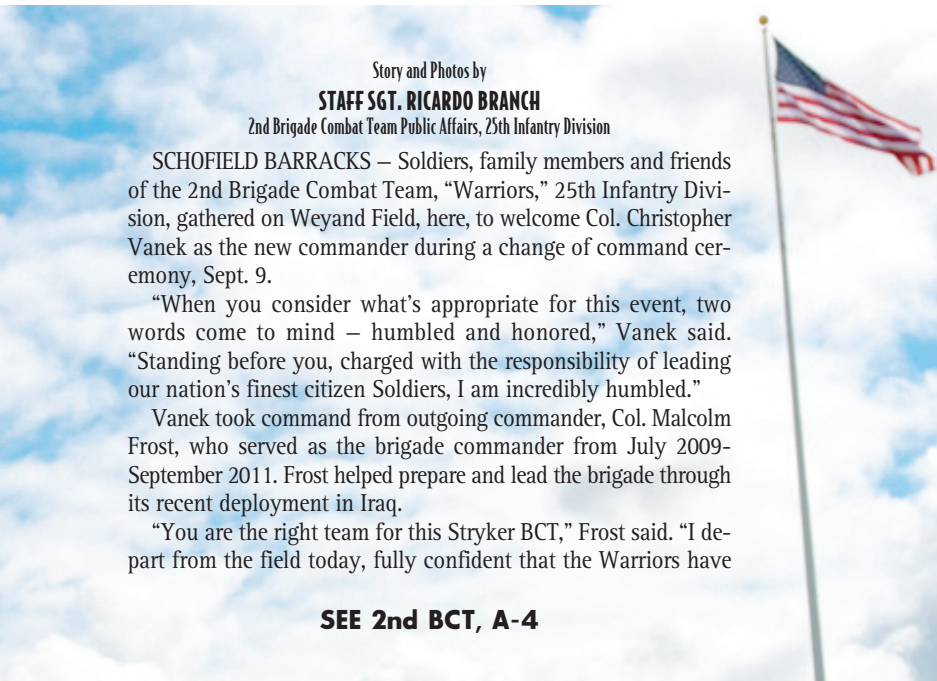


Col. Malcolm Frost, outgoing commander, 2nd BCT, 25th ID, speaks to the unit a final time following the brigade's change of command ceremony, Sept. 9.



Top — Col. Christopher Vanek (right), incoming commander, receives the brigade colors from Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander, USARPAC, during the 2nd BCT, 25th ID's change of command ceremony, Sept. 9, at Weyand Field, Schofield Barracks.

Right — Col. Christopher Vanek (left), incoming commander, 2nd BCT, 25th ID, salutes the colors during the brigade's change of command ceremony.



Story and Photos by

**STAFF SGT. RICARDO BRANCH**

2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers, family members and friends of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, "Warriors," 25th Infantry Division, gathered on Weyand Field, here, to welcome Col. Christopher Vanek as the new commander during a change of command ceremony, Sept. 9.

"When you consider what's appropriate for this event, two words come to mind — humbled and honored," Vanek said. "Standing before you, charged with the responsibility of leading our nation's finest citizen Soldiers, I am incredibly humbled."

Vanek took command from outgoing commander, Col. Malcolm Frost, who served as the brigade commander from July 2009-September 2011. Frost helped prepare and lead the brigade through its recent deployment in Iraq.

"You are the right team for this Stryker BCT," Frost said. "I depart from the field today, fully confident that the Warriors have

SEE 2nd BCT, A-4

## 25th CAB set to deploy in 2012

**25TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS,  
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION**  
News Release

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — The Department of Defense announced recently that the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, will deploy in early 2012 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The great men and women of the 25th CAB have been training hard in preparation for the possibility of a deployment to Afghanistan," said Col. Frank Tate, commander, 25th CAB. "The CAB has served with great distinction in both Iraq and Afghanistan in the past and stands ready to serve again when the nation calls."

The brigade was last deployed to Iraq from September 2009-August 2010.

## Hale Kula eligible for educational grant

**SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE**  
Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation;  
U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Department of Defense released results of an Educational Facilities Review, Aug. 30, which assessed the physical condition and capacity of 157 of 160 public schools on military installations.

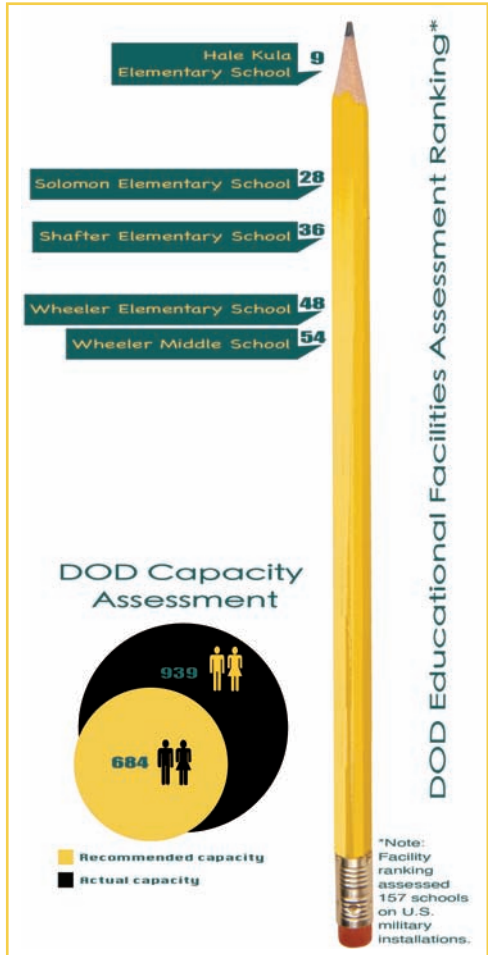
Based on the assessment, Hale Kula Elementary School, here, was identified as one of the first Hawaii schools chosen to apply for a portion of a \$250 million educational grant.

The DOD grant helps ensure that public schools on military installations are providing high-quality environments. Funding is provided "to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements or supplement other federal funds to construct, renovate, repair or expand el-

Hale Kula Elementary School received a ranking of three for the facility's physical conditions.

In the capacity assessment, Hale Kula's enrollment was also high. The school had 939 students in school year 2010-2011 — 37 percent over capacity.

SEE SLO, A-4



## IPC receives national energy recognition

**ISLAND PALM COMMUNITIES**  
News Release

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Island Palm Communities recently received the "Project of the Year: Green Award" from Multifamily Executive, a trade publication.

The Green Award is presented to a project that demonstrates environmental friendliness through energy savings and the use of green building materials and finishes; buildings must also qualify for a national or local green standard.

Sustainability initiatives taking place at IPC and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii stood out from among the more than 200 nominations submitted.

"The achievements we're making in building energy-efficient and sustainable communities continue to bring great value to our families," said Col. Douglas Mulbury, commander, USAG-HI. "Our efforts are contributing to a healthier environment and helping families reduce energy consumption. We have an ability to increase our renewable energy resources."

Besides having one of the first neighborhoods in the U.S. to be recognized as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, Certified Neighborhood, several IPC homes are LEED Gold and Silver Certified.

Also, each new IPC home is built to meet LEED Silver standards.

"Our commitment to build sustainable communities is well-aligned with our Army partners' goals surrounding energy efficiency, which has given us an opportunity to implement new development and design approaches and utilize new technologies," said Mark Frey, project director, IPC.

IPC has conducted pilot programs to test new designs, materials and technologies. It's on track to have more than 25 percent of its energy requirements met by renewable energy by 2025.

Currently, more than 17 percent of IPC's energy comes from renewal energy sources, including photovoltaic systems and solar hot water.

By October 2020, IPC projects to generate 35.7 percent of its energy demand through renewable resources.

Since IPC implemented its mock billing program last year and the live billing program last month, electric consumption has decreased 10 percent, as families have seen exactly how much energy they are consuming.

The Green Award is IPC's latest award. In June, the Association of Defense Communities named IPC the 2011 Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Partnership Award winner.

To learn more about IPC's sustainability initiatives, visit [www.IslandPalmCommunities.com](http://www.IslandPalmCommunities.com) and click on "About Us."



## We want to hear from you...

The Hawaii Army Weekly welcomes articles from Army organizations, announcements from the general public about community events of interest to the military community, and letters and commentaries.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to write, coordinate with the managing editor at 656-3488, or e-mail editor@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

The editorial deadline for articles and announcements is the Friday prior to Friday publications. Prior coordination is mandatory.

Articles must be text or Word files with complete information, no abbreviations; accompanying photographs must be digital, high resolution, jpeg files with full captions and bylines.

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## 13 days since last fatal accident

Number represents fatal accidents as defined by Army Regulation 385-10, which is inclusive of all active component U.S. Army units and personnel. Current as of 9/15/11.

### Straight Talk

# Basic fire prevention awareness starts at home

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII  
News Release

Unlike many natural disasters, most wildfires are caused by and can also be prevented by people.

Each year, wildfires cause unnecessary damage to property, natural and cultural resources.

As well, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals are lost each year as wildfires burn through critical habitats. Wildfires can decimate cultural resources that have been in place for hundreds of years.

Without protection or fire-resistant landscaping, homes built in rural and urban areas can quickly be consumed by fire. Fires that burn with high intensity can even change the landscape. Brush and native grass is often replaced with more fire-prone California grass or Guinea grass.

With recent brush fires in Hawaii Kai and Haleiwa, the time is now to closely monitor activities that may cause a wildfire and to take action:

- Call 911 or the local fire department if you notice an unattended or out-of-control fire.
- Wait for wood or barbecue ashes to cool before throwing them out.
- Don't play with matches.
- Do not discard cigarettes, matches and smoking materials, especially not from moving vehicles. Be certain to completely extinguish these items before disposing of them.
- Refuel lawn mowers and power saws only after the engine and mufflers have cooled. Use approved gasoline containers.
- Keep approved mufflers and spark arrestors installed and maintained.
- Park vehicles so that the exhaust system does not come in contact with dry grass, weeds or leaves.
- Notify the electric power company when dead trees

or overhanging limbs endanger electric wires. Ensure that wires do not touch each other or the ground, causing sparks that can start fires.

#### Household Fires

In 2007, an estimated 51,800 home-structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fires resulted in 451 civilian deaths, 1,641 civilian injuries and \$1.2 billion in direct property damage, according to NFPA.org.

The Federal Fire Department offers the following fire prevention tips:

- Unplug small appliances when they are not in use.
- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, make sure the home has tamper-resistant outlets.
- Consider having a qualified electrician add additional circuits or outlets, so you do not have to use extension cords.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into an outlet.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.
- Call a qualified electrician if outlets or switches feel warm, if you have frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuits, or if you have flickering or dimming lights.
- Place lamps on level surfaces that are away from things that can burn, and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.
- Make sure your home has ground-fault circuit interrupters in the kitchen, bathroom(s), laundry room, basement and outdoor areas.
- Arc-fault circuit interrupters should be installed



in your home to protect electrical outlets.

In 51 percent of home fires caused by home outdoor grills, the first thing ignited was flammable or combustible gas or liquid, according to the National Fire Protection Agency's latest statistics.

Therefore, never use a charcoal grill in an enclosed space, because deadly carbon monoxide is a byproduct of the charcoal fire.

- Follow these safety tips, too:
- Only use an approved charcoal lighter fluid to start up a charcoal-fired grill.
  - Grills need to be kept away from houses, fences, trees and anything else with a propensity for burning.
  - Perform a thorough safety inspection before lighting the grill.
  - Don't wear loose clothing. Nonflammable short-sleeved shirts and form-fitting clothes are best attire.
  - Keep all other flammable materials far away from the grill.
  - Never add lighter fluid or any flammable liquid to a burning fire.
  - When lighting a gas grill, use the 10 to five rule. If the grill does not start within 10 seconds, turn off the gas, leave the lid open and give it five minutes before you try again.
  - Make sure that the fire is out when you are done.

*(Editor's Note: Information was compiled from Scott Yamasaki, Wildland Fire Program, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii; Angela Sanders, Federal Fire Department; and Brenda Donnell, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.)*



Angela E. Kershner | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District Public Affairs

## Feeding the needy

HONOLULU — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District employees Phillip Mun (left) and Maria Billena round up boxes of donated, nonperishable food items for the Feds Feed Families 2011 Campaign, here. Feds Feed Families is a government-wide effort, including the Department of Defense. Federal employees are helping food banks across the country with severe shortages of nonperishable items by gathering 2 million pounds of food for families.

## Pfc. found guilty, sentenced to hard labor for crimes

**Q:** Why does the Hawaii Army Weekly publish courts-martial findings?

**A:** The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate releases the results of recent courts-martial for publication to inform the community of military justice trends and to deter future misconduct by Soldiers.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, publishes the result of the following recent courts-martial.

A private first class from Headquarters Operations Company, 715th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th MI Brigade, was found guilty of one specification of Article 90, disobeying a superior officer, and was sentenced to hard labor without confinement for 60 days.

In addition to forfeiture of pay, either adjudged or by operation of law, confinement and a punitive discharge, the Soldier will have a federal conviction that the Soldier must report when filling out a job application.

A federal conviction strips the Soldier of many rights, such as the right to purchase and maintain firearms and the right to vote.



## God is present, guides us through all of life's many changes

CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) STEPHEN SEXTON  
Deputy Community South Chaplain

The word "change" is often something different to everyone, as change can be good or not so good.

Change can be something that we do ourselves or something that happens to us from outside forces.

Some changes are so gradual we don't notice them. Other changes happen overnight, and we wonder, "Oh my God, what has happened?"

Some changes we are glad to see and rejoice when they happen, such as the birth of a child or a wedding or a permanent change of station move.



Sexton

Some changes we don't like, such as our children growing older or not acting like our little girl or little boy anymore — though, of course, some parents have a party when their children leave the nest.

As we grow each day, our bodies change, and we become more mature in our thinking and understanding. We try to slow the process of physical change with creams, lotions, potions and diets, but changes happen even if we don't want it to. In other words, life happens.

Life is special, though it's too short, and change can affect our outlook on life.

At times, we need help with the changes life brings our way. Some moments, we need help coping with difficult changes.

During changes, we may think differently, act differently and say things differently than we would during "normal" times.

The Army has many programs that can be used to help us cope with and go through changes; visit a chaplain if you need help with changes in your life.

Since change is inevitable, I know there are going to be situations that I am going to need strength and courage to face each day. Likewise, someone will always be there with you, through all of life's changing times.

You may not see him, you may not know him, you may not feel him and you may not hear him, but he is present. Through those rough and tough times, call on God, and he is here to help.

He may not give you the answer you want, but he will give you the answer you need. Life happens. Change happens.

God is always available to help us through life and its changes, and the Bible says to call on him while he may be found (Isaiah 55:6). His name is Jesus.

# Voices of Ohana



"The ability to physically and mentally adapt."

Spc. Tiffany Dusterhoft  
Combat Camera, 8th TSC



"Pushing through the odds."

Spc. Larry Freeman  
Information Systems Operator-Analyst, 8th TSC



"Being able to adapt to adversity."

Staff Sgt. Erik Iwai  
Food Service Specialist, 8th TSC



"Problems are not stop signs, they're guidelines."

Spc. Courtney Patton  
Information Systems Operator-Analyst, 8th TSC



"You must be responsive and adaptive to change."

Spc. Bryan Westling  
Information Systems Operator-Analyst, 8th TSC

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

How do you define resiliency?

Photos by 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs



# 25th ID assumes command of southern Iraq

**SPC. BRITTANY H. GARDNER & SPC. BREEANNA J. DUBUKE**  
U.S. Division-Center Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — The 25th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for the southern region of Iraq from U.S. Division-South during a transfer of authority ceremony, Sept. 7, at Contingency Operating Base Basra, here.

The transfer of authority from the 36th Inf. Div. to the 25th ID marks the last event held by USD-S, which will now be considered part of USD-Center.

The transfer of authority gives 25th ID responsibility for nine additional provinces for the remainder of Operation New Dawn, or OND, which concludes at the end of the year. Previous to this ceremony, 25th ID had responsibility for two provinces.

Leading the last division to operate in Iraq as part of OND, Maj. Gen. Bernard Champoux, commander, 25th ID, is optimistic about the future mission of the 25th ID and its Iraqi partners.

“Regardless of future demands, some that are known and some that are unknown, no one should question or challenge our resolve,” Champoux said. “Ultimately, I believe we have a shared common (goal) and resolute focus for a stable and secure Iraq — an Iraq whose people feel a sense of dignity and hope, an Iraq whose governmental institutions provide for its people and foster a



**Spc. Breeanna J. DuBuke** | U.S. Division-Center Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Bernard Champoux (center), commander, 25th ID, speaks to and fields questions from Iraqi media after the transfer of authority ceremony of U.S. Division-South from the 36th Inf. Div. to the 25th ID, at COB Basrah, Iraq, Sept. 7.

sense of inclusion in its political process, and an Iraq with a strong, professional and capable security force that can protect the population and defend the nation.”

During his speech to an audience of military leaders, U.S. and Iraqi diplomats, local Iraqi religious leaders and deployed Soldiers, Champoux thanked the 36th Inf. Div. for its tireless commit-

ment and professionalism and expressed his intent for the weeks ahead.

“As we press forward together, the U.S. mission will transition to one with an increasing focus on civilian-led efforts that continue our deep commitment to Iraq and to its people,” Champoux said.

The prosperity of the people of southern Iraq is in very capable hands, said Maj. Gen. Eddy Spurgin, commander, 36th Inf. Div.

“The U.S. forces’ mission in southern Iraq (has) not ended,” Spurgin said. “Finishing the mission will be Maj. Gen. Bernie Champoux and the great ‘Tropic Lightning Div.,’ a division (that is) well known and highly regarded both throughout the U.S. and the country of Iraq.”

The transfer of authority to the 25th ID not only signifies the completion of the 36th Inf. Div.’s mission, but also another sign that OND is coming to an end, said Gen. Lloyd Austin III, commander, U.S. Forces-Iraq, during the ceremony.

“Normally when we farewell one division, we welcome another into Iraq,” Austin said, “but today’s ceremony marks a significant milestone as OND begins to draw to a close, in honor of our commitment to the security agreement. And thanks to the tireless efforts of our teammates across Iraq, the plan for our departure remains on track.”

## PRT improvements test strength, endurance, focus

Physical fitness changes help prepare Soldiers for battlefield

Story and Photo by  
**SGT. STEPHEN SCOTT**  
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD — Weighed down with water cans, ammunition cans and packages of bottled water, Soldiers ascended a hill in a line that made them look like ants returning to their nest with provisions.

However, the Soldiers of Signal Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, weren’t carrying supplies to contribute to a logistical mission on Camp Liberty, Iraq.

This maneuver was their first introduction to the Army’s new Physical Readiness Training, or PRT, program.

“The (PRT) program is long overdue for the Army,” said Capt. Steven Schnurr, commander, Operations Co., HHBN. “This (program) has created a better tool for commanders to assess their Soldiers on their physical readiness for any contingency operation worldwide.”

The battalion transitioned to the PRT program, Aug. 1, and it allowed leadership of the subordinate companies to develop their own exercise regimens within PRT guidelines.

That ingenuity is keeping Soldiers involved.

“Mentally, they’re more aware,” said 1st Sgt. Rodney Morant, first sergeant, Operations Co. “They’re interested in the exercises because it’s something new.”

“They love coming out and doing something different,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Terrell, communications security manage-

ment officer, 25th ID. “Usually, the stuff we do, you see people looking at us like, ‘Man, why aren’t we doing training like that,’ so it’s pretty motivating.”

One new training method for the Operations Co. is running an obstacle course designed to integrate the principles of the PRT’s different strength, mobility and endurance drills. The course consists of hurdles, balance beams, ammunition-can carries, a litter drag, high and low walls, and a slalom run.

All of the physical fitness activities are intended to help Soldiers perform better in full-spectrum operations.

Climbing, conditioning, hip-stability and core drills are incorporated into this one obstacle course, Morant said.

Signal Co. Soldiers also managed to find unique ways to achieve their fitness goals, such as traveling up and down a hill carrying various objects or pushing vehicles.

“The water carry, carrying various 50- and 75-pound water jugs up the hill, definitely tests your strength, endurance and mental focus,” said Spc.

Christopher Giovannetti, armorer, Signal Co.

“There’s so much stuff you can do with the litter carries, the buddy carries, climbing over the bunkers, carrying stuff, toting stuff and Humvee pushes,” Terrell said. “Instead of just sitting in the office or just coming out and doing the normal push-ups and sit-ups, you can mix it up and have fun at the same time.”

No matter the method, HHBN companies have accepted the mission of moving forward with fitness routines that will help Soldiers better prepare for the battlefield.

“I’ve been in Army for 24 years, and finally, after 24 years, we’re going to the change that’s been talked about for more than 20 years,” Morant said.

Many of the newer Soldiers share the same opinion and enthusiasm for the implementation of the PRT program as seasoned veterans.

“I think the program is very helpful,” Giovannetti said. “I think the battlefield-focused training is what the Army needs right now.”



1st Lt. Fawn Robar, executive officer, Operations Co., HHBN, 25th ID, maneuvers through an obstacle course during PRT at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, recently.

# USARPAC hosts CH-47F Chinook equipping ceremony, blessing

25th CAB, HIANG introduce CH-47F Chinooks helicopters to their fleets

**SGT. KARL V. WILLIAMS**

25th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs,  
25th Infantry Division

FORD ISLAND — A few weeks short of the 50th anniversary of CH-47 Chinook’s maiden flight, Soldiers held an equipping ceremony to welcome the equipment to Hawaii, Sept. 8.

More than 400 guests and Soldiers in the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and the Hawaii Army National Guard filled the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor’s historic Hangar 79, here, for the event, while being surrounded by the museum’s collection of vintage aircraft.

“I can’t think of a better backdrop to unveil the newest airframe in our 25th CAB and HIANG inventory, the CH-47F,” said Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander, U.S. Army-Pacific. “Our Army and our industry partners certainly got it right with this aircraft.

“The F model being delivered today includes a newly machined airframe, vibration reduction, corrosion protection, digital-source collectors, a new engine, an extended-range fuel system, modern-missile warning and infrared suppression systems, and (it) is compatible with joint digital connectivity requirements — nonexistent even a



Russell K. Dodson | U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

Representatives and leaders from USARPAC; 25th CAB, 25th ID; HIARNG; the community and the Boeing Company celebrate the acquisition of CH-47F Chinook helicopters during a ceremony, Sept. 8, at the historic Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor on Ford Island.

decade ago,” Wiercinski said.

In addition to transporting Soldiers and supplies, the CH-47F provides lifesaving combat support and sustainment functions for medical evacuations, aircraft recovery, disaster relief, and search and rescue, said Wiercinski.

Maj. Gen. William Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, was proud to be taking part in the ceremony and in transitioning the new CH-47F Chinook helicopters to the 25th CAB and the HIARNG. “What a great team, the partnership that I

(witnessed) at the airfield and in meetings with the (HIANG and 25th CAB),” Crosby said. “Many people like to enunciate that there are bars or gaps between the two. Clearly, what I sense here is what every organization strives for — that true partnership, the sharing of experiences, knowledge and teamwork.”

Throughout both the 25th ID and HANG history, CH-47 Chinook helicopters have played a vital role, and the latest chapter will be written with this newest model. Posters symbolizing the fielding of the aircraft were unveiled and presented to the commanders of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 25th General Support Avn. Bn., 25th CAB, and to Co. B, 1st Bn., 171st Avn. Regiment, HIARNG.

Kahu Kordell Kekoa, a bishop at Bernice Pauahi Bishop Memorial Chapel, performed a traditional Hawaiian blessing upon one of the CH-47F Chinook helicopters, representing the entire fleet of helicopters being fielded.

Pat Donnelly, director of domestic Chinook, Boeing Corporation, thanked the Soldiers and their families for their sacrifices to make America safe.

“As far as I am concerned, it’s not only the best cargo helicopter out there, but it’s the best helicopter in the free world,” Donnelly said. “I am confident that we gave you a great product. I would like to come back and have (the aviators) tell me what worked and what didn’t work, so we can continue to make this aircraft better.”

## SLO: Upgrades coming

CONTINUED FROM A-1

Its capacity should be 684, according to the Department of Defense Education Activity, or DODEA.

Hale Kula currently has 962 students enrolled and this number fluctuates daily.

These combined assessments resulted in Hale Kula being one of the first schools able to apply for the grant.

DOD is committed to ensuring that all children of military families have the opportunity for a quality education. One of the prerequisites for meeting this goal is to ensure that school facilities contribute to student achievement by providing safe and functionally adequate learning environments.

Leaders from Hale Kula Elementary School, U.S. Army Hawaii, and Hawaii’s Department of Education have been invited to a Public Schools on Military Installations Orientation Meeting, Oct. 4-5, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va., to discuss the grant application process.

Hawaii’s Army and DOE will work together to make certain that the four remaining Army on-post schools at Schofield Barracks and Fort Shafter submit complete applications and receive funding in the near future.

*(Editor’s Note: Content compiled from DOD news releases.)*

## 2nd BCT: Vanek assumes command from Frost

CONTINUED FROM A-1

the right leader in charge. You will take them to the next level.”

Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander, U.S. Army-Pacific, reviewing officer for the ceremony, praised both commanders for their tireless efforts to ensure Soldiers are always trained to remain combat ready.

“Frost was an exceptional commander for this brigade,” Wiercinski said. “Frost had a saying to anyone joining the brigade, which I’d like to share with you now: ‘At the end of your life, you only have your family and your sense of accomplishment; take care of the first one every day.’ That type of leader is what our Army needs today.”

Wiercinski went on to talk about Vanek joining the Warrior Brigade.

“Vanek comes to the unit with over 60-months downrange in both Iraq and Afghanistan; he’s combat tested and the right man for this job,” he said.

Vanek, who is no stranger to Schofield Barracks or the unit,

served as a platoon leader and company executive officer in the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, “Golden Dragons,” 2nd BCT, before moving on to other assignments, including one as regimental deputy commander.

He said he is proud to return to the Warrior Brigade family, and he looks forward to leading his Soldiers through the reset of its last deployment, as well as training his Soldiers to carry on in their warfighting mission.

“First, I want to prepare the organization for any potential contingencies,” Vanek said, when asked about his goals for the brigade. “Second is to be a great teammate and great part of the larger 25th ID organization.

“The (2nd BCT) has an incredible legacy that I experienced when I was here as a second lieutenant,” Vanek said. “It’s absolutely humbling to come back here as a brigade commander in the very same unit that I started my career in.”

After the ceremony, in keeping with Hawaiian customs, Vanek and his family received lei around their necks, which welcomed them into the brigade.





Homeless veterans receive haircuts at the first-ever Honolulu Stand Down at Ala Moana Beach Park, Sept. 7. Stand Down is an event for homeless veterans that — along with providing clothes, food, haircuts and health screenings — helps the veterans receive information on VA benefits, jobs and housing.

# 18th MEDCOM (DS) volunteers to support homeless veterans

Story and Photo by  
**SGT. 1ST CLASS RODNEY JACKSON**  
18th MEDCOM (DS) Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Personnel from 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) helped homeless veterans receive a “hand up” during the first-ever Honolulu Stand Down at Ala Moana Beach Park, here, Sept. 7.

The all-day event helped 154 homeless veterans get registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs; receive medical and health screenings; get assistance in obtaining employment and VA benefits; file claims and appeals; find housing; receive clothing, toiletry items, haircuts and a good meal; and enjoy live music in the park.

Volunteers from different organizations organized and supported the event.

“I asked the veterans what they liked about today, and a lot of them are saying that they’ve never had this kind of help before and that they didn’t think anyone cared,” said Sgt. Dominic Bona, paralegal specialist, 18th MEDCOM (DS). “They said the food and the clothes were great.”

Bona added that the veterans said it was terrible to just be learning about jobs and benefits now, since that’s stuff that they earned.

“I didn’t take my military benefits for a long time, but I’m starting to take them now,” said Dana Powers, a homeless veteran. “My last duty station was West Berlin.

“This has been really good. I really appreciate the effort that people put into this for the veterans,” Powers continued.

This event was a first for the Honolulu area, but it’s been sponsored in San Diego every year.

“The San Diego Stand Down is the national model,” said Noe Foster, volunteer coordinator. “About 1,000 veterans go to it every year, over a three-day period, but it also includes a Stand Down court that we hope to incorporate next year here.”

The Stand Down court has a judge come out and help homeless veterans with any of the common infractions that might be holding them back from getting a job or getting certified, Foster stated.

“Stand Down was started back in the ‘80s by a veteran that got out of the service, became a psychologist and saw a need to help veterans that were homeless,” said Ed Speakman, volunteer coordinator and retired master chief petty officer and Navy SEAL. “The one thing about Stand Down is (veterans) look at it as it’s not a hand out. It’s a hand up.

“It’s designed to make the veterans aware of what’s available for them,” Speakman explained.

# Trans. Bde.’s ‘Iron Chef’ competition pays tribute to Hispanic Heritage Month

Story and Photo by  
**DONNA KLAPAKIS**  
599th Transportation Brigade Public Affairs

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Lunchtime for employees at the 599th Transportation Brigade is usually just like in most other organizations — grab a sandwich, walk down to the dining facility or heat up some leftovers or a TV dinner.

However, one day, every month, 599th Trans. Bde. employees go all out to throw a potluck lunch that is also a cooking competition: the 599th “Iron Chef.”

The competition, held Sept. 7, was called “Avocado and Adobo” in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which began Thursday.

“We try to base our theme on an Equal Opportunity observance,” said Sgt. 1st Class LoNika Harris, first sergeant, 599th Trans. Bde. “Since this month is Hispanic Heritage Month, I asked people about the different kinds of Hispanic foods to come up with the name.”

The Iron Chef event gives busy employees a chance to relax together, without taking much time away from the duty day.

“It’s a great way to build team morale and esprit de corps,” said Col. Gust Pagonis, commander, 599th Trans. Bde. “I’m also amazed at the talent of the chefs we have in the unit.”

Laura Toman’s sweet chicken recipe won the main dish competition. Although she did not attend this month’s event, she sent her contribution in with her husband, Air Force Lt. Col. Todd Toman, deputy commander, 599th Trans. Bde.

“She couldn’t believe she had won,” Toman said. “She thought I was pulling her leg when I told her.”

The event evolved from a monthly potluck, established in 2006, to its present form, in 2009, as a friendly but fierce competition. A new twist on the unit event is guest judges.

“Guest celebrity judges aren’t influenced by who made the food, and that’s closer to the real show,” said Harris, referring to the television program “Iron Chef” on the Food Network.

This month’s guest judge was retired Col. Christine Gayagas, president, First Canoe Strategies and Consulting.

“It was a wonderful way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, a little camaraderie, have fun and eat wonderful food,” Gayagas said.

The command also conducts its monthly EO brief and gives any awards during the event. This month, Denison Parker, traffic management specialist in the Operations Directorate, received the An-



Employees and guests sample the food at the 599th Trans. Bde.’s “Iron Chef” cooking competition, Sept. 7, at the brigade headquarters’ gazebo, Wheeler Army Airfield.

cient Order of Saint Christopher, a prestigious transportation award that requires approval from the Army’s Chief of Transportation.

Those who want to attend the event, but do not want to compete have several choices: they may bring a noncompetition dish, buy food to contribute or donate to the unit fund.

Participation in the event is strictly voluntary, and everyone in the unit gets a chance to help out, Harris said.

“We also rotate setup and cleanup among the directorates, so no one is stuck with that type of work all the time,” she added.

# Caring is the pivotal cornerstone of preventing suicides

LT. COL. BLAIN S. WALKER  
U.S. Army Public Health Command

WASHINGTON — Ask, Care, Escort, or ACE, training is the Army-approved suicide prevention and awareness training model for all Soldiers, leaders, family members and Army civilians.

Soldiers have been completing ACE suicide awareness training on an annual basis for several years now, and they can probably tell you all of the warning signs and risk factors of suicide from memory.

But is that awareness enough?

Preventing suicide is more than just knowing what puts Soldiers at risk for taking their life; preventing suicide is all about ACE.

## To Ask

Ask is the most difficult challenge when you think someone may be suicidal. People fear asking the question, “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

They may be afraid of offending their friend. In reality, friends are more likely to be grateful that you care enough about them to ask the question and that you are aware of the pain they are going through. By asking the question, you are letting them know that they have a friend who is listening to them.

It is also hard for us to believe someone we know or care about is considering taking that final step. Suicide is something that always happens to someone else.

What if the answer is yes?

What do you do if you’ve confirmed someone is suicidal?

Familiarize yourself with the resources available to overcome this fear.

Knowing the answers to these questions will not only help alleviate the fear of getting a “yes,” but will help with the escort step in the ACE model.

## To Care

Caring is key to the whole ACE model. In fact, the model should be CAE, but that acronym doesn’t make any sense and is not as easy to remember.

When you care about people, you are more likely to listen to them when they are experiencing emotional or physical pain. You are more likely to be concerned about their welfare and see that they get through their trials.

When you care about someone you think may be suicidal, to ask the question, “Are you thinking of killing yourself?” becomes much easier. When you care about someone, you are more likely to find out what and where the local resources are and escort a friend to get the help he or she needs.

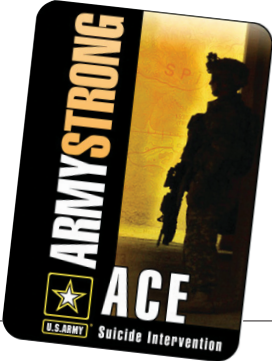
It is not uncommon for individuals who are suicidal to feel alone, that no one cares whether they live or die. By actively listening and engaging with a friend, you are showing that you care. That may be enough to help prevent a suicide.

## To Escort

Escorting is the easiest step in the ACE model. Take the time to find out where your local chaplain and behavioral health providers are, as well as where the nearest military treatment facility or

emergency room is located.

When you ask if someone is suicidal, and they say yes, care enough to escort them to the nearest resource where they can get help.



## ACE

If you or someone you care about is considering suicide, get help immediately.

- Call the Military Police at 656-7114 or 438-7114.
- Call the National Suicide Lifeline at (800) 273-8255 (TALK).
- Call Military OneSource at (800) 342-9647.

## Prevention resources

Numerous resources are available to help prevent or intervene when you know someone is suicidal:

- Find helpful apps at [www.t2health.org/mobile-apps](http://www.t2health.org/mobile-apps).
- Visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).
- Visit [www.preventsuicide.army.mil](http://www.preventsuicide.army.mil).
- Visit the Suicide Prevention Program at Building 2091, Schofield Barracks, or call 655-9105.
- Watch the suicide awareness video at [www.army.mil/article/63934/Suicide\\_awareness\\_video\\_aimed\\_at\\_t\\_first\\_line\\_supervisors](http://www.army.mil/article/63934/Suicide_awareness_video_aimed_at_t_first_line_supervisors).

## Suicide Prevention Month

The Army is committed to the health, safety and well-being of its Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and families.

To emphasize the commitment, the Army is extending observance of National Suicide Prevention week, Sept. 4-10, to the entire month of September.

Suicide Prevention Month is a critical, Armywide opportunity to raise awareness and understanding of the joint effort required to successfully eliminate suicide within our ranks, as

well as encourage use of the key Army support services.

“Soldiers today live a lifetime in their first six years of service; (they) experience more during their first enlistment than most of their civilian peers will in a lifetime,” said Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli.

Army programs aim to assist Soldiers, families and Army civilians with their “lifetime” of challenges, including substance abuse, financial and relationship problems, post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

While continuing to stress the importance of taking care of one's physical, mental and spiritual health, the Army is placing special emphasis on the impact first-line supervisors and junior leaders can have in the third of an ongoing series of suicide prevention videos released annually, “Shoulder to Shoulder: Finding Strength and Hope Together.”

“The video encourages first-line supervisors and junior leaders to intervene early, in order to stop problems from escalating,” said Walter Morales, program chief, Army Suicide Prevention.

Every suicide represents a tragic loss to our Army and nation.

All Army family members must recognize that reducing the incidence of suicide within our Army requires a holistic approach to improving physical, mental and spiritual health. By focusing on resiliency and positive life-coping skills, the Army will not only lower suicide rates, but also enhance quality of life for our entire Army community.

*(Editor's Note: Information was compiled from the Army's “Stand-To.”)*

## News Briefs

Send announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to [community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com](mailto:community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com).

### Today

#### National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony

— The U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will host a ceremony to commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 10 a.m., Sept. 16, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The ceremony honors former prisoners of war and fallen U.S. personnel whose identities remain unknown. Highlights include a wreath laying ceremony, speeches and taps. The ceremony is free and open to the public. Attire is military Class B or service equivalent, or civilian business attire. Call 448-1937.

**Non-appropriated Fund retirees** — A compact disk containing personal information of 25,000 non-appropriated fund retiree records was lost the final week of August.

The potentially compromised information contains names, social security numbers, type of retirement, retirement date, amount of life insurance and dates of service. Some records may also contain birth dates.

Retirees who are at risk have been sent notification letters advising them of the data loss and actions they can take to protect their identities.

Concerned retirees should call (210) 466-1640, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (CST), Monday-Friday.

### 19 / Monday

**DADT** — HBO will tell the story of the military's ban on gays and lesbians from its implementation through its 2011 repeal, in a documentary, “The Strange History of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.” It airs Sept. 19, at midnight, and Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. The documentary illustrates the evolution of the controversial policy. The show has archival news footage and interviews with policy experts from Pentagon personnel, as well as personal accounts by a number of actively serving gay soldiers. Featured representatives include Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank, Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman and former Pennsylvania Rep. Patrick Murphy.

### 20 / Tuesday

**PT Field Closure** — The Fort Shafter Flats physical training field will close 8:30-11 a.m., Sept. 20. During this time, the PT field will be used as a helicopter landing zone. Areas affected are the Fort Shafter Flats PT field and its surrounding track and parking areas. Call 656-0223 or 656-0220.

**EFMP Town Hall** — The exceptional family member program respite care town hall meeting is 6-8 p.m., Sept. 20, at Army Community Service, Building 2019, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-0105.



# EOC ready, prepared to respond to major threats like hurricanes

BRANDON BOSWORTH  
Contributing Writer

WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD — Hurricane season in Hawaii runs from June 1-Nov. 30.

The Emergency Operations Center, or EOC, here, is prepared to act in the event a major storm hits the state.

This time of year, hurricanes are a particular concern. The EOC is responsible for responding to major disasters, ranging from natural incidents such as tsunamis and earthquakes, to man-made incidents like a terrorist attack.

According to Joe Barker, installation management emergency officer, the EOC has four priorities in the event of a major incident.

“The command priorities are saving lives, preventing suffering, protecting property and restoring essential services,” he said.

Barker stressed the importance of Soldiers and their families preparing for emergencies.

“They need to do three key things,” Barker said. “One, make an emergency kit. Two, make a plan about what to do in an emergency. Three, stay informed. (If they) do these three things, they should be fine.”

From the EOC command center, Barker and his team of operators can access critical information during a disaster — from reports of deaths, injuries, power outages and road closures — as well as maintain communications with local officials and other branches of the military.

The EOC is responsible for all Army installations on Oahu and the Big Island.

“From one room, I can control all Army installations in our jurisdiction,” Barker said.

If a situation arises that is serious enough for Hawaii’s governor to declare an emergency, the EOC can step in to lend support to the state.

It’s been nearly 20 years since Hurricane Iniki struck the islands, and in Barker’s words, “we’re past due” for a serious storm.

## Be prepared

To learn what to do to prepare for an emergency, visit websites such as [ready.gov](http://ready.gov), [www.acsim.army.mil/readymil/](http://www.acsim.army.mil/readymil/) or [www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil](http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil) and click on “Emergency Management.”

If a hurricane threatens, EOC operators are ready to take to their posts in two hours or less. Key tasks include securing vehicles and equipment, establishing safe havens, filling water containers, and boarding or taping up windows.

Another important job is to keep Soldiers and their families informed.

“We are set up to tell people what they need to know,” Barker said.

The EOC works with garrison organizations like Public Affairs and Island Palm Communities to use everything to get vital information out, including Facebook, Twitter, the Internet, an IPC autodial phone system and giant voice speakers spread throughout the installations.

The EOC’s work doesn’t end after a hurricane or other disaster strikes. In the aftermath, EOC assessment teams are sent out to evaluate damage, clear debris and report any emergencies. Army housing is given special attention, to determine if it is safe for families to return to their homes.

Barker is confident of the EOC’s ability to deal with a hurricane. When Hurricane Fecia hit Oahu in 2009, the EOC response went according to plan.

The EOC also participates in the state’s Makani Pahili, Hawaiian for “strong winds,” a yearly, joint exercise involving local government and all branches of the armed services here in Hawaii. Key exercise objectives are to test disaster preparedness plans and procedures, test alert procedures and communications systems, and test select safe havens and family assistance centers, at all Army installations in Hawaii.



Brandon Bosworth | Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Joe Barker, installation management emergency officer, points to a weather system displayed in the EOC that could potentially turn into a hurricane, recently.



File Photo

A civilian walks through fallen trees to a building on Wheeler Army Airfield after a storm in 2007. The storm created gusts of wind greater than 50 mph, pushing down electrical wiring, trees and lightposts.





# NEVER FORGET

## USARPAC honors 9/11 with ceremony

**RUSSELL K. DODSON**

U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — U.S. Army-Pacific conducted a 9/11 remembrance ceremony, Sunday, at Palm Circle, here.

Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that forever changed the lives of all Americans.

"On Sept. 11, 2001, more than 3,000 of our fellow citizens fell victim to the largest surprise attack in U.S. history since Pearl Harbor," said Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, commander, USARPAC. "Not since the Revolutionary War has the U.S. fought such a lengthy conflict without resorting to some form of conscription."

"Because of you — the new 'Greatest Genera-

tion' — we have been able to wage one of the longest wars in American history, without sacrificing the all-volunteer force, which we hold so dear," he said.

"Our efforts over the last decade have prevented our enemies (from) the opportunity of conducting further successful attacks on U.S. soil," Wiercinski continued. "It's the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen of the all-volunteer force; the professional civilians who assist you every day in completing your missions; the families who love you; and the communities who support your efforts (that made this possible)."

From late 2001 to present day, more than three million service members have deployed,

including more than one-and-a-half million Soldiers. Those figures often include multiple deployments, with some individuals being deployed five or more times to Afghanistan or Iraq, Wiercinski said.

To date, more than 6,200 Americans have given their lives in overseas contingency operations conducted in response to the war imposed by the acts of 9/11.

"As you and your families sit down to dinner, I ask that you take a moment to just reflect; reflect upon where we've been as a nation over the last 10 years," said Wiercinski.

The remembrance ceremony, here, concluded with the lowering of the colors as taps was played.



Top — The flag detail gathers the American flag at USARPAC's 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Fort Shafter.

Above — Pipe major Larry Coleman plays "Amazing Grace" during the ceremony at Palm Circle, Fort Shafter.

See additional photos from this event at [www.flickr.com/usarpac](http://www.flickr.com/usarpac). Read about related 9/11 remembrance events on B-4.

## 'TF Bronco' shares personal stories, reflections about 9/11

**STAFF SGT. AMBER ROBINSON**

3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 25th Infantry Division

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — For the last 10 years, the war in Afghanistan has continued, with new generations of Soldiers coming to the front lines to challenge the insurgency.

On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Soldiers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, "Task Force Bronco," 25th Infantry Division, discussed how they were affected on that day and how it feels to be a part of the conflict that continues years later.

"When the attacks happened on 9/11, I never thought I'd come to Afghanistan to fight in the war 10 years later," said 2nd Lt. Whitney Cumber, platoon leader, Company C, 325th Bde. Special Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT.

Cumber was 13 at the time of the attacks, and said her memory of the attacks involves a childhood friend who was one of the youngest lost during the 9/11 attacks when her plane crashed into the Pentagon.

"I thought the war was going to happen on American soil," Cumber recalled. "I lived in D.C. and remember seeing the smoke rising from the Pentagon. I knew we were under attack ... and I thought the war was beginning right then."



Photo courtesy 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division

Soldiers with the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., "Wolfhounds," 3rd BCT, 25th ID, hold a moment of silence during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony in Afghanistan.

Ten years later, Cumber helps mend Afghans and U.S. Soldiers injured on the battlefield in her job as a medical officer.

Many Soldiers who serve in Afghanistan today also served in some capacity at ground zero directly after the attacks.

Capt. Paul Whelan, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regiment, "Wolfhounds," 3rd BCT, was in the New York National Guard, and he served

as security at ground zero while firefighters and volunteers conducted recovery.

"It was very surreal," Whelan said. "Every time a victim was recovered, they would ring a bell. I will always remember the sound of that bell echoing in the darkness, as I stood there guarding ground zero into the night."

Whelan is still answering the call to elim-

inate terrorism 10 years later.

"I was there then, and now, I've come halfway around the world to continue to try and do my part to eliminate insurgency," he said.

What sticks with Staff Sgt. Matthew Wolf, 3rd BCT, is the way the American people came together during tragedy. He said truck drivers filled the back of his pickup truck with equipment as he made stops on his way to ground zero. Truck drivers donated flashlights, batteries, tools, gloves, gum and other supplies.

When Wolf arrived on-site, he and the other volunteers worked for days.

"I don't know exactly how long I was there, but it seemed like years," he said.

After days of serving at ground zero, he went home to see his family.

"As I crossed over the George Washington Bridge, heading home, I started to cry," Wolf said. "It just rushed over me, and I couldn't control it. I had to stop several times on the way because I couldn't see to drive."

Wolf decided then to join the military and fight against what had caused so much destruction and pain. He is now on his second combat tour.

**Deployed Forces**





**17 / Saturday**  
**Day For Kids** — Celebrate this national day, 9 a.m.-noon, Sept. 17, at the School Age Center, Building 1280, Schofield Barracks. Activities include entertainment, demonstrations and contests. This event is open to military keiki of all ages. Call Parent Central Services at either 655-8380 or 833-5393.

**18 / Sunday**  
**Banned Books** — Come see displays of frequently challenged or banned books at all Army libraries, Sept. 18-Oct. 1. Borrow a banned book and get an "I Read Banned Books" button. Also, enter to win a prize.

**Aquampics** — Youth in first-12th grade can enter in a first-ever EDGE Aquampics program. Registration deadline is Sept. 18; register at Parent Central Services. Practice begins Sept. 26. Competitions will be held at Richardson Pool, Oct. 19. Call 655-0445.

**19 / Monday**  
**Free Hula Classes** — The Native Hawaiian Liaison Office, USAG-HI, welcomes all Soldiers and families to participate in free hula classes. Beginner classes are 5-6 p.m.; advanced classes are 6-7 p.m. Call 655-9694 or email nhliaison@gmail.com. Classes are held the following days and locations:  
•Mondays, Kalakaua Community Center, Schofield Barracks.  
•Tuesdays, AMR Community Center.

**20 / Tuesday**  
**Open Mic Night** — Show off your talent, no matter what it is, and enjoy an evening of food and drink specials, 6 p.m., Sept. 20, Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks. Call 655-5697.

**AFAP Conference** — Deadline is Sept. 20 to submit your AFAP issues online The USAG-HI AFAP Conference is Oct. 18-20. Submit your issues at mwrarmyhawaii.com, under "Getting Involved." Volunteers are also being sought. Email heather.miles@us.army.mil or call 655-0705.

**Mini Basketball** — Youth born between 2006-2007 can register for mini basketball Sept. 20-Oct. 11; the program runs from Oct. 20-Dec. 15. Registration fee is \$20. Mini sports meets once a week and is a parent and child participation program. Youth learn and practice basic basketball skills. Call 836-1923.

**21 / Wednesday**  
**Free Workshops** — ACS is holding the following workshops at ACS, Schofield Barracks; all dates are Sept. 21. Register online at www.acsclasses.com. Call ACS at 655-4227.  
•All About Credit, 9-10:30 a.m. This

workshop focuses on establishing good credit and what to do to raise your credit rating.  
•Financial Planning for Deployment Workshop, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Learn how to prepare your finances before deployment and make the best of the extra entitlements.  
•How to Improve Your Marriage Without Talking About It, 1-2:30 p.m. Learn how to get closer by finding love without words. Couples don't need to attend together. RSVP at 438-3344.  
•Become a ScreamFree Parent, 5:30-7:30. This four-part parenting curriculum focuses on helping parents stay calm and connected to their children. Call 655-0596.

**22 / Thursday**  
**Civilian Resume Writing** — This free class is 9-10:30 a.m., Sept. 22, ACS, Schofield Barracks. Learn how to tailor your resume for a civilian sector job; gain helpful tips on job searching in the civilian sector and discover how to prepare for an interview. Call 655-4227 to register.

**23 / Friday**  
**Employment Orientation** — This free event is 9-10:30 a.m., Sept. 23, ACS, Schofield Barracks. Kick-start your job search in Hawaii. Get employment information on federal, state, private sector and staffing agencies. Call 655-4227 to register.

**Make A Difference Day** — This event is the nation's most encompassing day of community service. Held annually on the fourth Saturday of October, millions of Americans are rallied into a single day of action to help change the world.  
If you know of a worthy project, visit www.himwr.com by Sept. 23 to submit a project submission form. If you would like to volunteer, call at 655-0620 or email amanda.k.koren@us.army.mil.

**24 / Saturday**  
**Street Dreams Car and Bike Show** — Are you ridin' fly? If your car, bike or truck is hot, this event, 11 a.m., Sept. 24, Tropics Recreation Center, Schofield Barracks, is for you. Call 655-5698.

**Standup Paddleboard** — Take a standup paddleboard lesson with Outdoor Recreation, 7 a.m.-noon, Sept. 24. Cost is \$60. Call 655-0143 to register.

**26 / Monday**  
**All Army Bowling** — Men and women can register for All Army Bowling now through Sept. 26. Soldiers may apply via AKO on https://armysports.cfsc.army.mil. Call 655-0856.

**30 / Friday**  
**Hawaiian Luau Lunch Buffet** — This buffet for \$10.95 is served at the Hale Ikena at Fort Shafter and Nehelani at Schofield Barracks, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., every last Friday of the month, except in November and December. Reservations are required for large groups, but come early. Call the Hale Ikena at 438-1974 or Nehelani at 655-0660.



Send announcements a week prior to publication to community@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

**17 / Saturday**  
**Cub Scout Pack 442** — This group meets at 4 p.m., Saturdays, at Fort Shafter. Activities include hiking and community service projects. Call 888-5140.

**Family Fun Day** — Dole Plantation invites the public to attend this annual free event, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sept. 17. Family Fund Day features live musical performances, hula, arts and crafts, prize giveaways and more. This event is also the only day of the year when all members of the public — kamaaina, military personnel and visitors — can use buy-one-get-one-free admission at the plantation. Dole Plantation is located at 64-1550 Kamehameha Hwy., Wahiawa. Visit www.DolePlantation.com.

**Waikiki Hoolaulea** — This block party, 7 p.m., Sept. 17, on Kalakaua Avenue in Honolulu, will kick off with the arrival of the royal court, in preparation for the Aloha Festivals. Multiple

stages of entertainment, food stands and other vendors will be spread along 12 city blocks. Admission is free. Visit www.AlohaFestivals.com.

**21 / Wednesday**  
**"Tell Me a Story"** — The Schofield Barracks Parent to Parent Team will host this event, 5:30-7 p.m., Sept. 21, at Helemano Elementary School, Wahiawa. Ernest Muh, principal, Helemano Elementary, will read "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot" by Margot Theis Raven. Each family that attends will receive a free copy of the book. Families should bring either a blanket or towel to sit on. Admission is free, but reservations must be made at ptop.schofield@militarychild.org or (910) 977-8980.

**22 / Thursday**  
**Italian Film Festival** — This annual Cinema Italiano runs 10 a.m.-noon, daily, Sept. 22-25, at Kahala Mall, 4211 Waiialae Ave., Honolulu, and shares the best in Italian contemporary cinema. Visit www.CinemaItalianoInHawaii.org.

**Baby/Toddler Expo** — This event is 1-5 p.m., Sept. 22, Porter Community Center, Schofield Barracks. Highlights include contests for crawlers, toddlers and parents, along with vendors and seminars. Call (334) 389-2405.

**24 / Saturday**  
**Girl Scouts Yard Sale** — The Girl Scouts of the Kolekole Service Unit will hold a yard sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 24, at the Scout Hut, Schofield Barracks.

AFTB: Army Family Team Building  
AMR: Aliamanu Military Reservation  
BCT: Brigade Combat Team  
BSB: Brigade Support Battalion  
Co.: Company  
CYSS: Child, Youth and School Services



Pauline Barney, general manager, Inn at Schofield Barracks, shows one of the Inn's five newly refurbished rooms. The rooms feature large screen TVs, leather sofas and high-end coffee makers.

## Inn at Schofield Barracks offers remodeled rooms with increased accessibility

Story and Photo by  
**BRANDON BOSWORTH**  
Contributing Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Five rooms at the Inn at Schofield Barracks, here, have been refurbished with code-compliant accessibility.

The recently remodeled rooms have been specifically designed not only for VIP guests but for those with disabilities.

Kumu Sherman Thompson conducted a traditional Hawaiian ceremony to bless the rooms, Sept. 9.

The Inn caters to Soldiers and their families. Offering luxurious and accessible rooms was an important part of the Inn's renovation plan.

"We have always received our VIP guests — that is to say senior officers, warrant officers and equivalent Department of Defense civilians — in accordance with their rank and status, but the recent refurbishment gave us the opportunity to develop five bedrooms specifically for VIPs and the disabled," said Pauline Barney, general manager, Inn at Schofield Barracks.

"Part of our thinking was based on the increased operational tempo of recent years and — sadly, of course — inevitably increased casualties," Barney said. "We judged that the number of (medical evacuation) cases and disabled guests would rise. We felt that it gave us an opportunity to create five code-compliant accessible rooms at the same time, which would be something special for those staying in them."

"There are Soldiers coming back from the Middle East, wounded and disabled," Barney said. "Those Soldiers are the VIPs to us."

One room even features a walk-in bath tub that can be useful for those undergoing physical therapy. The new rooms have amenities such as big-screen TVs, leather sofas and high-end coffee makers, and each room showcases Hawaii-themed art. Adding a high-tech touch, the bathrooms also feature special TVs built into the mirrors.

The Inn's conference room has been refurbished and features a big-screen TV, as well as phone lines and Internet access. One of the conference room's unusual features is the full bath, including a shower.

"Sometimes, we have visiting officers who may want to join in for PT," Barney said. "The shower allows them to do so and then freshen up."

The Inn at Schofield Barracks first opened for business 17 years ago, and it is the only fully privatized U.S. military hotel in the world. A deli serves breakfast and lunch, and a convenience store offers a wide assortment of merchandise for travelers.

Located in the heart of Schofield Barracks, the Inn is within walking distance of many community activities, including the swimming pool, tennis courts, Commissary and Main Exchange. According to Barney, the Inn averages 70,000 rooms rented per year.

She says the Inn, "strives to provide a safe, secure and comfortable environment, with a unique Hawaiian atmosphere, for military families and personnel."

The newly refurbished rooms are just one more part of that mission.

Clothing for all ages, household items, baby items, toys, books, DVDs, and small electronics and more can be donated. Drop off donations at the Scout Hut, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Sept. 22. Money raised will go to support Girl Scout events throughout the membership and for volunteer recognition. Email schofieldgirlscouts@gmail.com.

**Aloha Festivals Floral Parade** — A colorful equestrian procession of female and male pau riders; extravagant floats with cascades of Hawaiian flowers; hula halau, or troupes; and marching bands will brighten Kalakaua Avenue in Honolulu, from Ala Moana Park to Kapiolani Park, 9 a.m., Sept. 24. This year's theme is "Mele Ailana: Celebrate Island Music." The event includes a Marine color guard and marching unit. Admission is free. Visit www.AlohaFestivals.com.

**Emergency Preparedness Fair** — This event, as part of September's National Preparedness Month, is 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 24, at Ewa Makai Middle School in Ewa Beach. The event will focus on tsunami, hurricane and earthquake preparedness, how to create a family plan, supply kits, evacuations, health emergencies and insurance. Call 683-3388.

**USO Benefit** — This annual tribute that honors active duty military members from all service branches starts 5:30 p.m., Sept. 24, at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monu-

ment. Individual tickets and/or tables will be available at a reduced rate to military personnel and their families.

To purchase tickets, email elsmith@uso.org or call 422-1213.

**25 / Sunday**  
**Waipahu 5K Cane Haul Run/Walk** — Cheer on your favorite athlete, 7 a.m., Sept. 25, at 94-695 Waipahu St., Hawaii's Plantation Village. Visit canehaulrun.blogspot.com, call 589-8448 or email canehaulrun@yahoo.com.

**29 / Thursday**  
**Kaneohe Bay Air Show** — This event, featuring the Navy's Blue Angels, is Sept. 29-30. The static displays include jets, helicopters, transport craft and classic military aircraft. Activities and events include carnival rides, car show, food and drink, and aerobic performances. Admission is free. Visit www.mcbh.usmc.mil/airshow.

## Ongoing

**RAP Meeting** — Get involved in your community by attending your community's Resident Advisory Panel. IPC residents can develop and strengthen their relationship with property management and fellow residents through the RAP. All IPC communities have RAP groups; contact your community manager for details and volunteer opportunities. Visit www.IslandPalmCommunities.com.

IPC: Island Palm Communities  
SKIES: Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills  
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center  
USAG-HI: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii  
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield



Additional religious services, children's programs, educational services and contact information can be found at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil. (Click on "Religious Support Office" under the "Directorates and Support Staff" menu).

AMR: Aliamanu Chapel  
FD: Fort DeRussy Chapel  
HMR: Helemano Chapel  
MPC: Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
PH: Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor  
SC: Soldiers' Chapel, Schofield Barracks  
TAMC: Tripler Army Medical Center Chapel  
WAAF: Wheeler Army Airfield Chapel

**Buddhist Services**  
•First Sunday, 1 p.m. at FD  
•Fourth Sunday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex

**Catholic Mass**  
•Thursday, 9 a.m. at AMR  
•Saturday, 5 p.m. at TAMC, WAAF and FD  
•Sunday services:  
- 8:30 a.m. at AMR  
-10:30 a.m. at MPC Annex  
-11 a.m. at TAMC  
•Monday-Friday, 11:45 a.m. at MPC and 12 p.m.TAMC

**Gospel Worship**  
•Sunday, noon. at MPC  
•Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at AMR

**Islamic Prayers and Study**  
•Friday, 1 p.m. at MPC Annex  
•Friday, 2:30 p.m., TAMC  
•Saturday and Sunday, 5:30 a.m.; 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at MPC Annex

**Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath)**  
•Monday, 6 p.m. at PH (Bible Study)  
•Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:15 a.m. at PH

**Pagan (Wicca)**  
•Friday, 7 p.m. at MPC Annex

**Protestant Worship**  
•Sunday Services  
-9 a.m. at FD, MPC and TAMC chapels  
-9 a.m. at WAAF chapel, Lutheran/Episcopalian  
-10 a.m. at HMR  
-10:30 a.m. at AMR

**Single Soldiers' Bible Study**  
•Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. at SC; lunch is provided.

**Worship Service**  
•Sunday, 6 p.m. at SC.



Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Memorial Theater

Call 624-2585 for movie listings or go to aafes.com under realtime movie listing.

**Winnie The Pooh**  
(G)  
Fri., Sept. 16, 6 p.m.

**The Change Up**  
(R)  
Fri., Sept. 16, 8:30 p.m.  
Wed., Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

**Zookeeper**  
(PG)  
Sat., Sept. 17, 4 p.m.



**Cowboys & Aliens**  
(PG-13)  
Sat., Sept. 17, 7 p.m.  
Thurs., Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

**Captain America: The First Avenger**  
(PG-13)  
Sun., Sept. 18, 2 p.m.

No shows on Mondays or Tuesdays.



# Online program helps military children SOAR in school, life

2nd-12th graders get special help; ACT, SAT preps available, too

**BRANDON BOSWORTH**  
Contributing Writer

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The School Age Center, here, recently hosted a presentation about the Student Online Achievement Resource, or SOAR, Program.

SOAR is a free online program that helps parents play an active role in their children’s education.

SOAR was designed for military families worldwide and for classmates of military family members in schools serving military installations.

Currently, SOAR has more than 60,000 users.

“Kids in military families are always moving to

different schools,” said Barbara Adams, director, Resources for the Military Impacted Schools Association. “Most kids are left on their own to fill in the gaps and catch up. SOAR helps them cope with different curriculum.”

Adams was guest speaker at the event.

To help make the transition from one school system to another easier, SOAR maintains assessments aligned to different state standards. For example, a student entering the Hawaii school system can go to the SOAR website and take a 30-question assessment based on Hawaii educational standards in math and language arts. After completing an assessment, SOAR will then direct the student to special tutorials to help him or her improve specific skills as needed.

## SOAR online

Sign up for SOAR at [www.SoarAtHome.com](http://www.SoarAtHome.com).

SOAR also offers tips for parents who want to help their children in their studies.

Currently, SOAR is primarily targeting students in second grade through high school. However, Adams said “preschool programs are being added.”

In addition, the SOAR website features ACT and SAT prep courses provided by Princeton Review. While these courses can normally cost several hundred dollars, they are free to SOAR users.

Plus, the SOAR Program is easy to use.

“Parents just need to go to the website and register their children,” Adams said. “It takes about 45 seconds.”

One of the biggest proponents for SOAR, locally, is Rep. Mark Takai, who is a school liaison for the Hawaii Army National Guard, as well as a member himself.

“The military is so important and does so much for us,” Takai said. “As a legislator, one of my main areas of focus is on education for military families.”

Takai sees SOAR as a way to make things easier for kids who find themselves constantly moving.

“Whether it is moving next door or across the globe, the transition can be stressful,” Takai explained. “With SOAR, it doesn’t have to be.”

# Volunteer coaches give time to mentor young athletes on, off field

**JOHN T. MEDLOCK**

Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — For the past three years, four Soldiers have made time in their busy lives to coach multiple sports programs for the Youth Sports leagues.

The garrison’s Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s Child, Youth and School Services hosts the Youth Sports leagues.

“It’s incredible how dedicated to the players each of (the Soldiers) have been over the years,” said Brendyn Agbayani, youth sports director, Schofield Barracks. “Their positive influence and direction have really made an impact on the sports programs, their players and the families.”

Staff Sgt. Brandon Wollet, 396th Signal Company, 30th Sig. Battalion, 311th Sig. Command, coaches flag football, basketball and soccer at Schofield Barracks. He took up coaching so he could become more involved in his own children’s activities.

However, he quickly discovered coaching’s rewards.

“I would encourage others to coach because there is no greater feeling than when I see my players demonstrate good sportsmanship and work together as a team,” Wollet said.

Sgt. 1st Class Chad Shier, an instructor at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy Hawaii, coaches baseball, basketball and football teams to give children a path into a successful life.

“Everything I do is with an eye for their future,” Shier said. “School first, sports second. Education gets you where you need to go.”

When coaching, Shier’s greatest thrill is when he sees the expressions on children’s faces change after they finally understand what he is trying to teach them.

Warrant Officer 2 Bill Swoveland, 25th Infantry Division, started coaching because he wanted his son to grow up having fun in sports while also learning the fundamentals.

“I also wanted to show the kids a good role model, somebody who does the right thing, especially under pressure (of game time), and plays by the rules, while still having fun doing it,” Swoveland said.

He continues to coach because it is his family’s link to the



Courtesy of Laurena Swoveland

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bill Swoveland (right), 25th ID, coaches the Mini Mite Division at Schofield Barracks during the 2010 flag football season. Swoveland’s coaching philosophy is to teach fundamentals of the sport while demonstrating positive behavior under pressure.

community.

“I see the kids I coach on Schofield, and they say, ‘hi, coach,’” Swoveland said. “My son has made great friends with his teammates. (Youth Sports is) a big part of our lives.”

Master Sgt. Justin Fordice, 18th Medical Command, believes that youth have a small window of opportunity to learn teamwork and social and sports skills, so Fordice coaches his baseball, soccer and football teams with that idea in mind.

“Sports is so much more than just the sport; it creates a sense of belonging, camaraderie and desire to be part of something successful,” he said. “It teaches children how to be humble when losing and winning, and also that it is not just about them. It’s about

how they participate as a team.”

Every year, Fordice returns to coaching his three sports. He sees how the children develop skills and values, and he wants to continue to build on those ideas, as well as teach them to the new players.

## Volunteer coaches needed

Youth Sports is always looking for additional coaches. To volunteer, call 655-6465 or email [brendyn.c.agbayani@us.army.mil](mailto:brendyn.c.agbayani@us.army.mil).



# 8th TSC runs to honor 9/11 first responders, service members

Story and Photo by  
**SPC. TIFFANY DUSTERHOFT**  
8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

FORD ISLAND — Thirty-seven Soldiers from 8th Theater Sustainment Command volunteered to run in the Stephen Siller Foundation 5K Tunnel to Towers Run, here, Sunday.

Siller was a firefighter who responded to the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers but couldn't travel beyond the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel due to traffic.

Refusing to give up, he exited his truck and ran through the tunnel with 60 pounds of firefighting gear strapped to his back. He later lost his life.

Runners, representing all services and civilians, ran or walked to honor the courage and dedication of 9/11's victims and first responders, as well as service members, their families and responders since the attacks who have been serving to protect our homeland.

Sgt. Phillis White, noncommissioned officer for battalion retention, 8th TSC, believes that Soldiers should support such an important tribute.



Wearing the unit's blue T-shirts, Soldiers from 8th TSC run in cadence at Ford Island during the Stephen Siller Foundation 5K Tunnel to Towers Run, Sunday. Siller was a firefighter who responded to the 9/11 Twin Towers attack. Similar events honoring his memory, including golf tournaments, are held throughout the U.S.

“I feel like it is my duty as a Soldier to come out and support (the event) because as Soldiers, we put our lives on the line overseas to protect civilians, while these men and women put their lives on the line to protect us here in the U.S.,” she said.

For Sgt. Jennifer Kreitzin, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 8th

Special Troops Battalion, 8th TSC, the event was about more than just 9/11.

“I wanted to run in memory of the six Soldiers in the Judge Advocate Corps who have been killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan,” she said. “All of their names were on the back of my assault packet, to include Stephen Siller. I wore the assault pack to honor Stephen Siller running with his gear.”

“Our company commander told us about (this run) ... (and) I said that it would be good to come out and support this organization on this day,” said Spc. Cheryl Harper, HHC, 8th STB, 8th TSC. “It was great. I was very motivated, and I’m glad I got to be a part of this alongside everyone else in the 8th TSC.”

Soldiers with the 8th TSC ran in formation and called cadence to motivate themselves and fellow runners.

“I heard a lot of people commenting on how the military cadence was motivating them throughout the run. It was great,” said Danielle McClendon, who ran with her husband, Sgt. Antonio McClendon, HHC, 8th STB, 8th TSC.



Soldiers from the 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, “Task Force Bronco,” 25th ID, finish a memorial run, Sunday, at Forward Operating Base Shinwar, Afghanistan.

## ‘Task Force Bronco’ run pays tribute to NY firefighter

Story and Photo by  
**STAFF SGT. LUKE GRAZIANI**  
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of a dark chapter in American history.

Service members and civilians throughout the world took time out of their busy schedules to honor those who lost their lives and shone a beacon of strength to those still hurting.

Soldiers in 3rd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, “Task Force Bronco,” 25th Infantry Division, participated in a memorial run, Sunday, at Forward Operating Base Shinwar, here, to honor the fallen and pay tribute to New York firefighter Stephen Siller.

“As a (native) New Yorker and an American, it was important to bring meaning to the Soldiers (as to) why they are deployed here,” said 2nd Lt. Kevin Caneco, platoon leader, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. “I wanted the Soldiers to have a time to reflect on the meaning of 9/11. I think serving your country is a noble calling (and) to be deployed here in Afghanistan on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 means a lot to me.”

Caneco planned the memorial run, here, in honor of Stephen Siller's ultimate sacrifice, as duty and selfless service are two of the Army's values. Siller demonstrated those values in 2001.

Siller was off duty from an overnight shift at the station. He overheard the news of the World Trade Center tragedy while on his way

home and immediately turned his truck around to drive back. Traffic was bumper to bumper, so he abandoned his truck, donned his 60 pounds of firefighting gear and ran the remaining 3.1 miles through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to ground zero. He was fatally wounded.

“We’re still fighting out here. We’re still out here; there’s still a war.”

— **Pfc. Dennis Akeem**  
Dakota Platoon, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID

For the past nine years, civilians and service members throughout the world have planned and participated in 3.1-mile memorial runs to pay tribute to the fallen.

All of the runners deployed to this war zone have their own reasons for participating as each was affected by 9/11 in some way.

“It’s a very emotional feeling,” said Pfc. Dennis Akeem, Dakota Platoon, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt.

“We’re still fighting out here,” Akeem said. “We’re still out here; there’s still a war. We’re doing what we have to do to get the mission completed.”